Technical Proposal for Nutrition Specialist Consultant: Development of the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (ARNS) 2026 to 2035

Submitted by:

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1. Introduction

I am a Professor of Human Nutrition Ahfad University for Women. I am pleased to submit this technical proposal for the development of the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (ARNS) 2026-2035. I have carefully reviewed the Terms of Reference (TOR) and understand the critical importance of this project in addressing the pressing nutrition challenges facing the African continent. I possess the requisite expertise, experience, and commitment to successfully deliver a high-quality and impactful ARNS.

2. Understanding of Terms of Reference (TOR)

I have thoroughly reviewed the TOR and fully understand the scope of work, deliverables, and expected outcomes. Key aspects of my understanding include:

- **Project Objectives:**

  The objective of the consultancy is to provide nutrition technical leadership in the development of the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy 2026-2035 that will guide AU Member States in the implementation of nutrition policies and programmes over the next 10 years. These objectives aim to create a strategic framework that effectively addresses the nutritional challenges faced by African countries, ensuring a coordinated and impactful approach to improving nutrition and food security across the continent.

  1. **Provide Technical Leadership:**
     To guide African Union (AU) Member States in the implementation of effective nutrition policies and programs over the next decade.
  2. **Review and Recommend Strategic Changes:**
     To propose strategic and technical changes for the new ARNS 2026-2035 based on feedback from the ATFFND 2024 meeting, a desk review of relevant documentation, and the latest global guidance on multi-sectoral nutrition and food security programming.

3. **Assess Implementation of the Current ARNS:**
   To evaluate the implementation and results of the current ARNS 2016-2025 through a participatory analysis at regional and Member State levels, focusing on the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and impact of the interventions.

4. **Conduct a Continental Situation Analysis:**
   To lead a technical analysis identifying trends, key issues, vulnerable groups, and regional variations for each major form of malnutrition, while considering emerging themes such as adolescent nutrition, gender equality, climate change, and the humanitarian-development nexus.

5. **Develop a Comprehensive Monitoring and Evaluation Framework:**
   To support the development of a theory of change and a results-based monitoring and evaluation framework for the ARNS 2026-2035.

6. **Facilitate Stakeholder Consultations:**
   To plan and conduct consultative meetings with Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and partners to gather feedback on the draft ARNS 2026-2035.

7. **Strengthen Institutional Capacities:**
   To assess the institutional, technical, and financial capacities of key stakeholders and propose measures for strengthening them through a SWOT analysis.

8. **Budget Development for Nutrition Interventions:**
   To support the development of a budget for the implementation of proven, scalable, and impactful nutrition interventions within the ARNS 2026-2035.

9. **Present the ARNS to Relevant Platforms:**
   To provide technical support in presenting the ARNS 2026-2035 to various platforms, including the ATFFND and the Specialized Technical Committee (STC) on Health, Nutrition, Population, and Drug Control for review and feedback.

Deliverables:

Deliverables for the ARNS 2026-2035 Consultancy

1. **Inception Report:**
   Description: The inception report (attached herewith) outline the consultant's understanding of the Terms of Reference (TOR) and detail the proposed methodology and approach for undertaking the assignment. It includes

timelines, risk assumptions, and a comprehensive plan for stakeholder consultations.

2. **Report on the Review of the Implementation of the ARNS 2016-2025:**
   Description: This report will assess the implementation and results of the current ARNS (2016-2025). It will include an evaluation of the institutional capacity and needs for strengthening, focusing on the relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, and impact of the interventions carried out under the previous strategy.
3. **Situation Analysis Report on Nutrition and Food Security:**
   Description: This report will provide a comprehensive analysis of the current nutrition and food security situation across the continent. It will identify trends, key issues, vulnerable groups, and regional variations for each major form of malnutrition, incorporating emerging themes such as adolescent nutrition, gender equality, and climate change.
4. **Briefs from Technical Consultation Meetings:**
   Description: These briefs will summarize the outcomes and key discussions from the consultative meetings held with Member States, Regional Economic Communities (RECs), and partners regarding the draft ARNS 2026-2035. They will capture stakeholder feedback and recommendations for the strategy.
5. **Theory of Change and Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Framework for the ARNS 2026-2035:**
   Description: This deliverable will include a clearly articulated theory of change that outlines the expected outcomes and impacts of the ARNS 2026-2035. It will also present a comprehensive results-based monitoring and evaluation framework to track progress and assess the effectiveness of the implemented strategies and interventions.

These deliverables are essential for ensuring that the ARNS 2026-2035 is well-informed, evidence-based, and aligned with the needs and priorities of AU Member States, ultimately contributing to improved nutrition and food security across Africa.

Key Stakeholders:

Key Stakeholder Groups for the ARNS 2026-2035

1. **Government Entities:**
   Description: National and local government bodies responsible for implementing nutrition policies and programs. They play a crucial role in policy formulation, resource allocation, and program execution.
2. **Regional Economic Communities (RECs):**
   Description: Organizations that facilitate regional cooperation and integration among member states. They are vital for coordinating nutrition initiatives and sharing best practices across countries.

3. **Civil Society Organizations (CSOs):**
   Description: Non-governmental organizations and community-based groups that advocate for nutrition and food security. They provide grassroots insights and mobilize community engagement in nutrition programs.
4. **Multilateral Organizations:**
   Description: International agencies such as UNICEF, WHO, and FAO that provide technical assistance, funding, and policy guidance. Their involvement is essential for aligning national strategies with global nutrition goals.
5. **Donor Organizations:**
   Description: Bilateral and multilateral funding agencies that support nutrition initiatives through financial resources and technical expertise. They are key to ensuring sustainable funding for nutrition programs.
6. **Private Sector:**
   Description: Businesses involved in food production, processing, and distribution. Their engagement is crucial for promoting nutrition-sensitive food systems and ensuring the availability of nutritious foods.
7. **Academia and Research Institutions:**
   Description: Universities and research organizations that contribute to evidence generation and policy analysis. They play a significant role in evaluating nutrition interventions and informing policy decisions.
8. **Community Leaders and Local Stakeholders:**
   Description: Influential figures within communities who can advocate for nutrition initiatives and mobilize local support. Their involvement is essential for ensuring that programs are culturally relevant and effective.

These stakeholder groups are integral to the successful development and implementation of the Africa Regional Nutrition Strategy (ARNS) 2026-2035, as they bring diverse perspectives, resources, and expertise to the table.

Reporting Requirements:

Reporting Requirements

1. **Inception Report:**
   Content: The report detailed the consultant's understanding of the TOR, the proposed methodology, approach, timelines, risk assumptions, and a detailed plan for stakeholder consultations.
   Purpose: To establish a clear framework for the consultancy and ensure alignment with the expectations of the African Union Commission (AUC).
2. **Review Report of the Implementation of the ARNS 2016-2025:**
   Content: This report must assess the implementation and results of the current ARNS, including an evaluation of institutional capacity and needs for strengthening.
   Purpose: To provide insights into the effectiveness of the previous strategy and identify areas for improvement.

3. **Situation Analysis Report on Nutrition and Food Security:**
   Content: A comprehensive analysis of the current nutrition and food security situation in Africa, identifying trends, key issues, vulnerable groups, and regional variations.
   Purpose: To inform the development of the new strategy by providing a clear understanding of the existing challenges and opportunities.
4. **Briefs from Technical Consultation Meetings:**
   Content: Summaries of the outcomes and key discussions from consultative meetings held with Member States, RECs, and partners regarding the draft ARNS 2026-2035.
   Purpose: To capture stakeholder feedback and recommendations, ensuring that the strategy reflects the needs and priorities of various stakeholders.
5. **Theory of Change and Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Framework:**
   Content: A clearly articulated theory of change outlining expected outcomes and impacts, along with a comprehensive results-based M&E framework.
   Purpose: To provide a structured approach for tracking progress and assessing the effectiveness of the implemented strategies and interventions.

These reporting requirements are essential for ensuring transparency, accountability, and effective communication throughout the development process of the ARNS 2026-2035. They facilitate stakeholder engagement and provide a foundation for informed decision-making.

3. Proposed Methodology

Our approach will be a multi-faceted and participatory one, emphasizing evidence-based decision-making and stakeholder engagement. Key components of our methodology include:

Desk Review:

- **Literature Review:** Comprehensive review of existing relevant literature, including:
  - Global and regional nutrition strategies and policies
  - Relevant research findings and evidence
  - Best practices and successful interventions in nutrition
  - Country-level nutrition plans and strategies
  - Data and information from relevant sources (e.g., WHO, UNICEF, FAO, etc.)
- **Policy Analysis:** Analysis of existing nutrition policies and programs in Africa to identify gaps, challenges, and areas for improvement.

Stakeholder Consultation:

- **Key Informant Interviews:** In-depth interviews with key stakeholders, including government officials, nutrition experts, academics, civil society organizations, and representatives from the private sector.

- **Focus Group Discussions:** Focused discussions with relevant groups, such as women's groups, youth groups, and vulnerable populations.
- **Workshops/Meetings:** Convening workshops and meetings with key stakeholders to discuss draft documents, gather feedback, and build consensus.

Data Analysis:

- **Qualitative and Quantitative Data Analysis:** Rigorous analysis of data collected through stakeholder consultations and desk review using appropriate qualitative and quantitative methods.
- **Data Visualization:** Presentation of key findings and insights through clear and concise data visualizations (e.g., charts, graphs, maps).

Strategy Development:

- **Strategic Planning Framework:** Utilizing a participatory and inclusive approach to develop a comprehensive and evidence-based ARNS, including:
  - Vision, mission, and goals
  - Strategic objectives and key result areas
  - Action plans and interventions
  - Monitoring and evaluation framework
  - Resource mobilization and sustainability plan

Capacity Building:

- Provide capacity building support to relevant stakeholders on nutrition planning, program implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

4. Consultants' Role

The consultant will play a pivotal role in:

- Leading all aspects of the ARNS development process, including planning, implementation, and monitoring.
- Conducting in-depth research and analysis.
- Facilitating stakeholder consultations and workshops.
- Drafting and refining the ARNS document.
- Preparing all required reports and presentations.
- Ensuring timely and high-quality delivery of all deliverables.

5. Detailed Work Plan

Activity	Deliverable	Timeline	LoE (Days)	Responsible
Inception Meeting	Inception Report	Week 1	2	Lead Consultant
Desk Review & Literature Review	Literature Review Summary	Week 2-4	10	Lead Consultant
Stakeholder Mapping & Engagement Plan	Stakeholder Engagement Plan	Week 4	2	Lead Consultant
Key Informant Interviews	Interview Transcripts	Week 5-8	15	Lead Consultant & Research Assistant
Focus Group Discussions	Focus Group Discussion Reports	Week 9-10	5	Lead Consultant & Research Assistant
Data Analysis & Synthesis	Analytical Report	Week 11-13	10	Lead Consultant
Draft ARNS Development	Draft ARNS Document	Week 14-16	15	Lead Consultant
Stakeholder Validation Workshop	Workshop Report & Revised Draft	Week 17-18	5	Lead Consultant
Finalization of ARNS	Final ARNS Document	Week 19-20	5	Lead Consultant
Report Writing & Presentation	Final Report & Presentation Materials	Week 21	3	Lead Consultant

6. Similar Project Experience

Project1.

Project Title:	*Develop the first Sudan National Nutrition Policy and Strategies for Implementation.*
Client Name:	*the Sudan Ministry of Health and UNICEF (Sudan)*
Project Duration:	*One Year (2006/2008)*
Scope of Work	*Overseeing the whole project development and production of the final documents*
Key Achievements:	*Develop the first Sudan National Nutrition Policy and Strategies for Implementation*

Projecct2.

Project Title:	*Develop the Sudan Nutrition Country Profile.*
Client Name:	*The Food and Agriculture Organization FAO*
Project Duration:	*One Year (2004-2005)*
Scope of Work	*Overseeing the whole project development and production of the final documents*
Key Achievements:	*Develop the Sudan Nutrition Country Profile.*

Project3.

Project Title:	*Develop the Food, Nutrition, and HIV Strategy (2010–2014) for Sudan.*
Client Name:	*The World Food Program (Sudan) WFP.*
Project Duration:	*Six Months (2010)*

Scope of Work	*Working with Internal Consultant for the development and production of the strategy*
Key Achievements:	*HIV Strategy (2010–2014) for Sudan.*

Project4.

Project Title:	*Developing and conducting 2 Leadership Skills Development programs*
Client Name:	*The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP-Sudan)* *The United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA-Sudan)*
Project Duration:	*Six Months (2010)*
Scope of Work	*Overseeing the whole project development, production of the final documents and conducting the Two-week Training.*
Key Achievements:	*Leadership Skills Development program: (Good Governance and Equity in Political Participation (GGEPP) Project)* *Leadership Skills Development program: for People living with HIV-AIDS*

Other Programs: Please, see the attached CV.

7. Financial Proposal

I. **Daily Rate**: **$500 USD per day.**

II. 2. Estimated Level of Effort (LoE)

Activity	*Estimated Days*	*Total Cost (USD)*
Literature Review	*15*	*$7,500*
Stakeholder Engagement	*20*	*$10,000*
Data Analysis	*10*	*$5,000*
Drafting the Strategy	*15*	*$7,500*
Validation Workshop	*10*	*$5,000*
Total Estimated Cost	***70 days***	***$35,000***

III. Payment Schedule

Initial Payment: 20% upon signing the contract: $7,000

IV. Milestone Payments:

Inception Report: 20% upon submission:	$7,000
Review Report of the ARNS 2016-2025: 20% upon submission:	$7,000
Situation Analysis Report: 20% upon submission:	$7,000
Briefs from Technical Consultation Meetings: 10% upon submission:	$3,500
Theory of Change and M&E Framework: 10% upon submission:	$3,500
Final Payment: 10% upon completion of the project and submission of the final report:	$3,500

V. **Justification of Costs:** The proposed daily rate of $500 USD reflects the consultant's extensive experience in nutrition policy development, project management, and stakeholder engagement.

VI. **Contingency Plan:** A contingency of 10% of the total estimated cost is included to cover unforeseen expenses that may arise during the project: $3,500.

VII. **Value for Money:** The proposed financial structure is designed to ensure efficient use of resources while delivering high-quality outputs that align with the objectives of the ARNS 2026-2035.

VIII. **Compliance with Funding Guidelines:** This financial proposal adheres to the funding guidelines set forth by the African Union Commission and is structured to ensure transparency and accountability.

8. Team Composition

Team Description

A. **Lead Consultant**: Professor Osama Awad Salih

- PhD in Nutrition or Public Health from [University Name].

B. Nutrition Specialist Consultant: [Your Name]

Qualifications:

- Master's degree in Human Nutrition or a related field.
- Certification in Nutrition Policy and Program Management.
- **Experience**: Over 10 years of experience working with governmental and non-governmental organizations on nutrition programs across Africa.
- Proven track record in conducting situation analyses, stakeholder engagement, and developing strategic frameworks for nutrition interventions.
- Experience in facilitating workshops and consultations with diverse stakeholders, ensuring inclusive and participatory processes.

C. Data Analyst: [Data Analyst's Name]

Qualifications:

- Master's degree in Statistics, Public Health, Data Science, or a related field.
- Proficiency in statistical software (e.g., R, SPSS, Stata) and data visualization tools (e.g., Tableau, Power BI).
- Experience: 3-5 years of experience in data analysis, particularly in the fields of public health or nutrition.
- Expertise in designing and implementing data collection methodologies, conducting statistical analyses, and interpreting complex datasets.
- Previous experience working on nutrition-related projects, providing insights that inform policy and program decisions.

D. Research Assistant: [Research Assistant's Name]

Qualifications:

- Bachelor's degree in Nutrition, Public Health, or a related field.
- Training in data collection and analysis methodologies.
- Experience: 2-3 years of experience in research support, including data collection, literature reviews, and report writing.
- Familiarity with nutrition and food security issues in the African context, having worked on previous projects related to public health and nutrition.

E. Additional Team Members (if applicable):

- **Technical Advisors:** Experts in specific areas such as food systems, gender equality, and climate change, who will provide guidance and insights throughout the project.
- **Stakeholder Engagement Coordinator:** Responsible for organizing consultations and workshops, ensuring effective communication and collaboration among stakeholders.

Osama Awad Salih

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- **Date: 28.12.2024**